

WHAT CAN A PERSON DO?

Send this pamphlet/message to:

- Federal and provincial party leaders
- Federal/Provincial Ministers of Justice, Status of Women, etc.
- Opposition party critics
- Your Member of Parliament
- The media and discuss stories that misname torture as abuse or assault

Become aware:

- Torture is violence beyond assault
- Include information about non-State torture (NST) in relationship, sexuality, & prenatal classes, in schools, universities & in professional development programs
- Remember children and adults of all ages, nationalities, and from all walks of life can be victimized; they can be co-workers, hospital clients, runaways, neighbors or friends
- Be respectful to persons who have survived non-State torture & horror
- Do not turn away when they try to tell you they suffered NST
- Tell them you are sorry
- Tell them it is not their fault--do not blame them for their victimization
- Organize presentations/discussion groups inviting knowledgeable people to speak

Torture is the most horrific violence a human being can suffer and survive, so

**LET'S DEMAND THAT
NON-STATE TORTURE IN
THE PRIVATE SPHERE BE
MADE ILLEGAL IN
CANADA**

AND

**CANADA BECOMES A
TORTURE FREE ZONE**

We are speaking the unspeakable; because, without reality there is no truth, and without truth how can there be healing?

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IS
CANADA
A
TORTURE FREE
ZONE?

FACTS ABOUT TORTURE

Globally, human rights language identifies torture as:

1. State actor torture or
2. Non-State actor torture

State actor torture

Refers to torture committed by a State- for example government officials or designates such as police, military personnel, or prison guards. It is generally referred to as torture that happens in the **public sphere**.

Non-State actor torture (NSAT)

Refers to torture committed by parents, spouses, other kin, guardians, neighbors, trusted adults, or strangers, for example. It is referred to as torture that happens in the **private/domestic sphere**.

Public sphere

In Canada this refers to places such as prisons, police lock up cells, military bases or posting in or outside Canada, or government institutions.

Private/Domestic sphere

In Canada this refers to homes, cabins, cottages, private buildings, rented spaces, warehouses, barns, or private out door spaces on farms, for example.

Why non-State actors torture

For: ■ pleasure ■ power/domination
■ devaluation/discriminatory reasons
■ profit/other material gains ■ beliefs of justification ■ learned attitude/behavior

CRIMINALIZING TORTURE IN THE PRIVATE SPHERE

Although State actor torture is a specific crime under section 269.1 of the Canadian *Criminal Code*, non-State actor torture is not named or listed as a specific crime in the *Criminal Code*.

Legally it is made invisible by using an “existing provisions” argument, meaning such acts of torture are misnamed and tried under other existing laws such as assaults or assaults with a weapon, for example. The results are: 1. The severity of harm suffered is minimized and misunderstood 2. Effective care is not provided 3. A torturer is not held accurately accountable, and 4. Specific investigative, preventive and protective interventions remain undeveloped.

SO ...

**THIS PAMPHLET IS ABOUT
TAKING ACTION IN
CANADA, TO MAKE A LAW
THAT ENSURES THE
PRIVATE SPHERE OF
HOME AND COMMUNITY
WITHIN OUR NATION
STATE
IS A TORTURE FREE ZONE**

NON-STATE TORTURE IS

Who are the victimized?

- Children from infancy to youth
- Adults and exploited women

Examples of what torturers do

Physical tortures: Torturers kick, beat, cut, whip & burn with candles, hot pokers, cigarettes & hot light bulbs those they torture ■ beat the soles of their feet ■ inflict electric shocks ■ tie them down ■ hang them by their limbs ■ cage them ■ use guns ■ choke them unconscious ■ hold them underwater ■ suffocate with plastic bags ■ withhold food & liquids ■ put pepper in their eyes

Sexualized tortures: Torturers inflict individual/family/group rapes ■ raped with their fingers, penis, guns, knives, tree branches, broom handles, and kitchen items ■ force swallowing or smearing with animal/human body fluids ■ traffic children to pedophiles or women to “client-perpetrators” ■ force them into pornography/snuff films ■ bestiality ■ force pregnancies/abortions

Mind-spirit tortures: ■ Torturers attempt to destroy the tortured child or adult’s sense of being human ■ treat them “like garbage” ■ dehumanize them ■ enforce witnessing cruelty/killing of pets or the torture of others ■ laughed at as they humiliate and degrade them ■ force victims to Self cut/bleed ■ force mind-altering drugs into them to distort reality